CAN THE DEMOCRATS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Democratic "insider" Bill Clinton and the Democratic "outsider" Jerry Brown are both running against the Reagan-Bush era of greed, corruption and bigotry —but do they represent a genuine alternative?

Come hear a socialist analysis of the Democratic party, the 1992 elections, and the possibility for real progressive political change in the United States.

Wednesday, 1 April, 4:00pm
Applied Physics & Math Bldg. 2301

that the health care issue is not being campaign will include newspaper reality. health care can become a

Should Progressives Vote For Clinton?

A Panel Dicussion

Herb Shore

Democratic Socialists Of America

SDSU Professor

Joe Stern

Columnist *San Diego Review**

*(appearing in a personal capacity)

Joe Allen

International Socialist Organization

Thursday September 17

7:30 PM

Central America Info. Center/Wesley Foundation
(5716 Hardy Ave at Campinile Drive;
next to SDSU bus terminal)

sponsored by

Democratic Socialists of America
International Socialist Organization

S.D. Review Sept 1992

Let 17 Years of Legal Experience

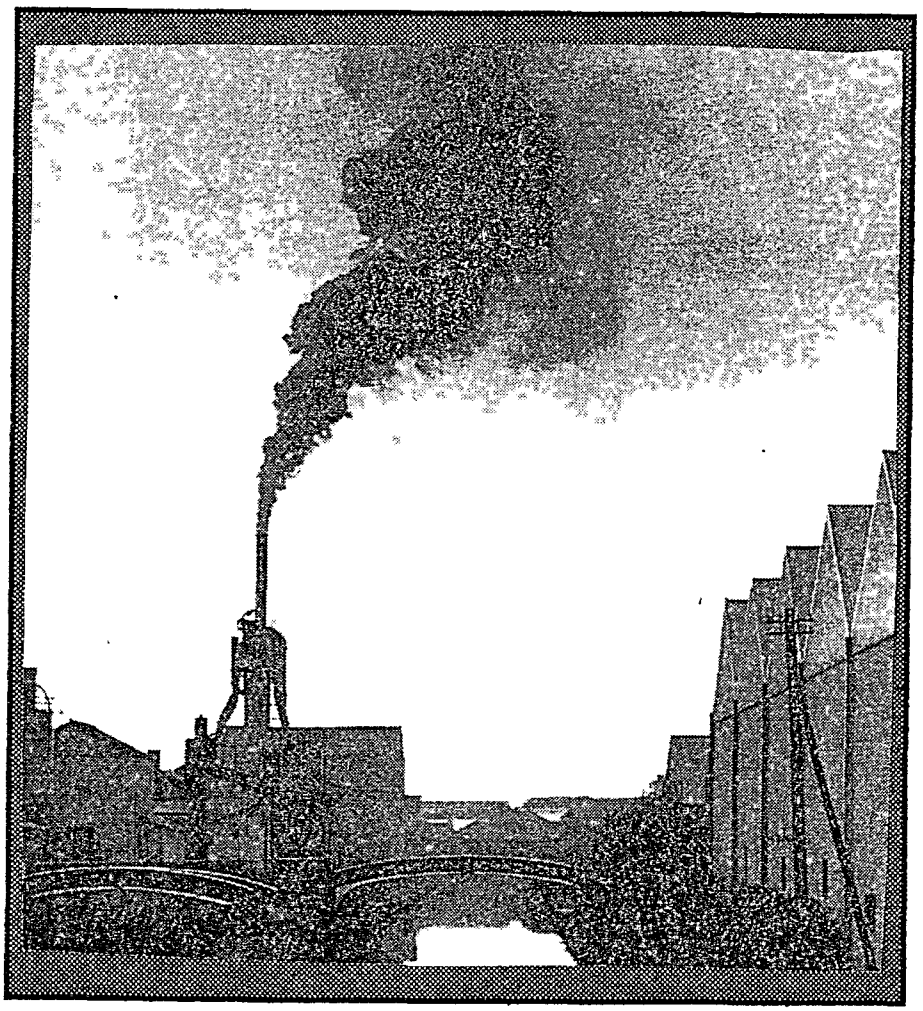
How Do We Save the Environment?
A Socialist Analysis

The thinning of the ozone layer. The greenhouse effect. The destruction of the tropical rain forests. The Exxon Valdez oil spill...

The exploitation of nature under the present economic system is exacting a terrible toll on both the environment and the people who live in it.

Any solution will require radical changes in the way that society is organized.

Come to a discussion of the socialist solution to the environmental crisis.



Wednesday, 22 April, 4:00pm
Santa Cruz Room, Price Ctr.

★International Socialist Club★

How Do We Fight For Women's Liberation Today?

We Will Decide
From State House to White House
NARAL
RELIGION IS A BAD JOKE AND PRO-LIFE IS THE CRUEL PUNCHLINE!
PASS THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT NOW!
KEEP ABORTION LEGAL

On April 5, hundreds of thousands of people marched in Washington D.C. to defend a woman's right to choose.

The right-wing attack on abortion rights, the growth in poverty for single mothers, widespread sexual harassment, are among the crucial issues affecting the quality of life for women today.

Yet these issues have been virtually ignored by the candidates in this election year.

Come to a talk by **Sharon Smith**—author of *Women's Liberation & Socialism*, *Abortion: Every Woman's Right* and *Twilight of the American Dream*—on the socialist analysis of how women's liberation can be won.

Monday, 13 April, 7:00 pm
Peterson 102

★International Socialist Club★

Co-sponsored by ASUCSD

RALLY TO

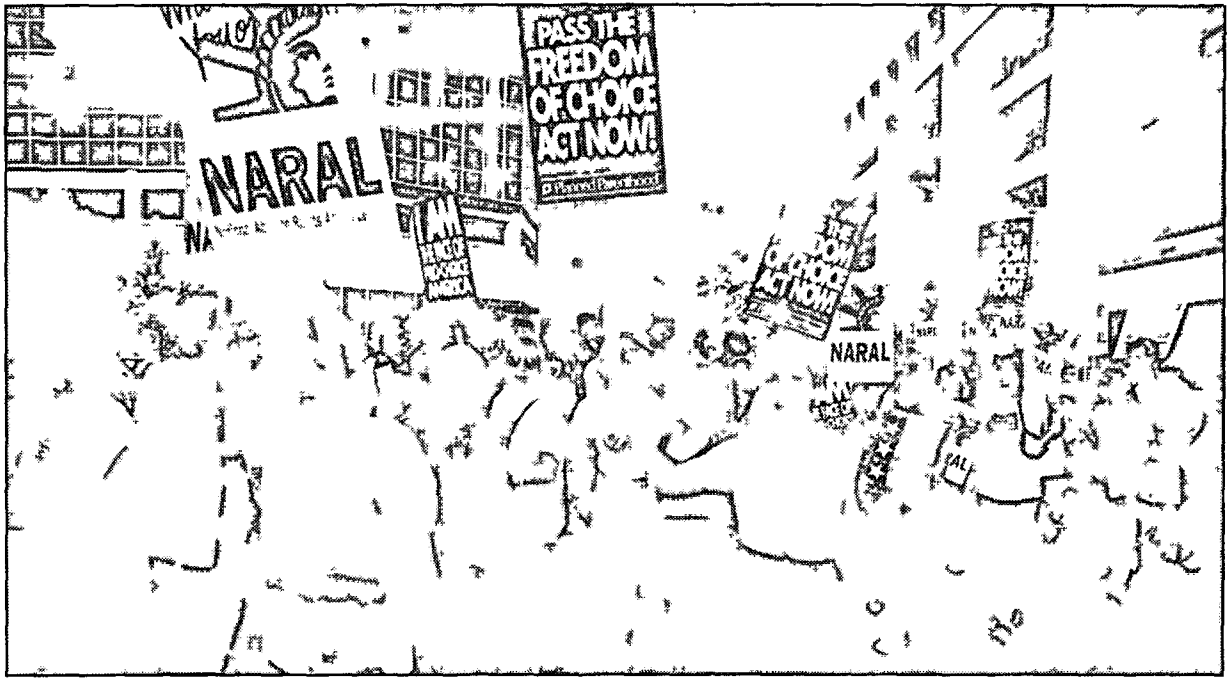
DEFEND ABORTION RIGHTS!

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
4:30 PM
BERKELEY ROOM, PRICE CTR.

ALL WELCOME

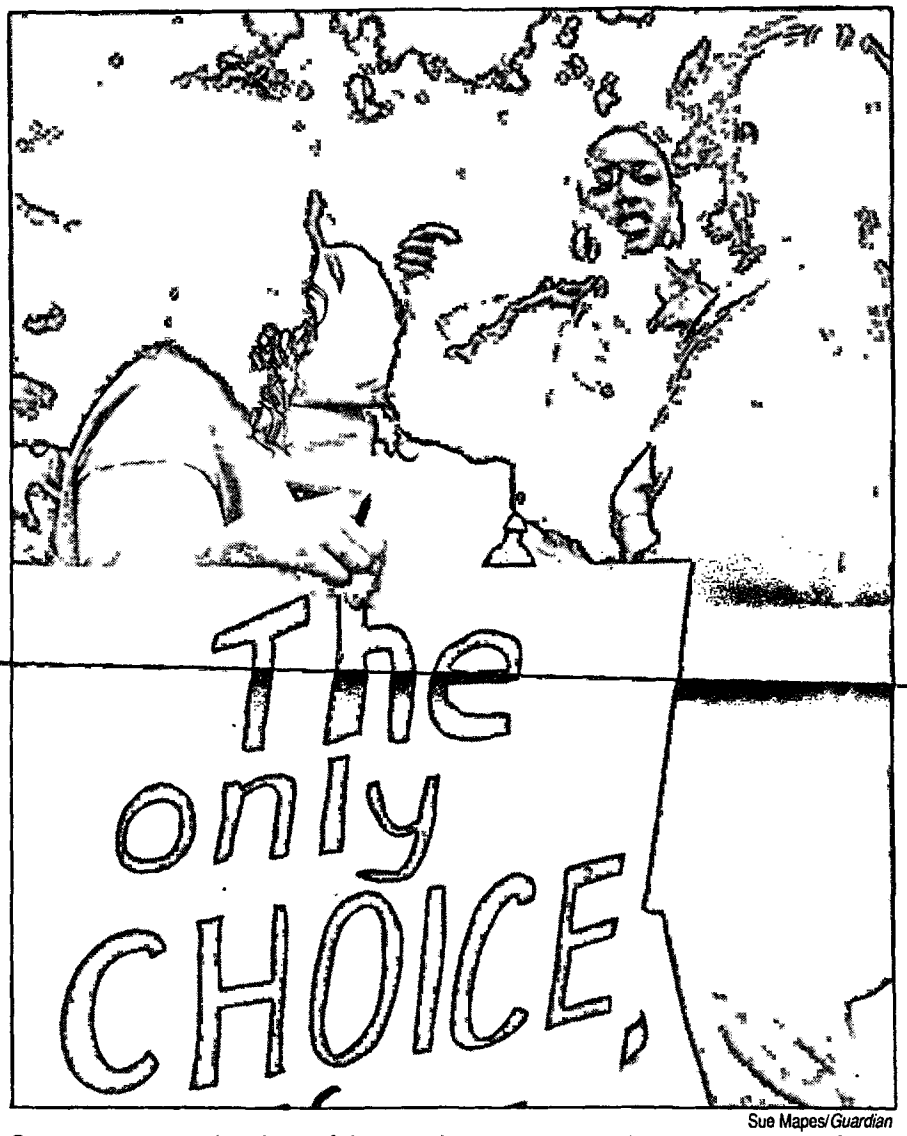
CALLED BY MEMBERS OF STUDENTS FOR PRO-CHOICE, THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER, AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CLUB



Union-Tribune / JOHN NELSON

Reaction to ruling: *Supporters of abortion rights demonstrate at the Federal Building in downtown San Diego in response to a U.S. Supreme Court decision.*

DIAN
THURSDAY
May 7, 1992
Vol. 76, No. 12



Sue Mapes/*Guardian*

Students on opposite sides of the abortion issue debated at the rally Tuesday.

Pro-Choice Students Rally for Abortion Rights

By Eric Schmidt
Associate News Editor
and David Snow
Staff Writer

Speakers from various pro-choice groups, flanked on one side by about 15 pro-life counter-demonstrators, addressed an audience of approximately 300 students at a Tuesday rally in front of the Main Gym.

Student organizations sponsoring the event included the Women's Resource Center and the International Socialist Club. Students not affiliated with the groups were also involved in planning the event.

"What does pro-choice mean? It means pro-woman, pro-family, pro-child, and it means to be respectful of a woman's deci-

See **RALLY**, Page 7

THE MASTER OF SYMBOLISM

by Joe Arthur/ International Socialist Organization
Allen

Is Jerry Brown, the former two-term Governor of California, a candidate that progressive activists should see as a real alternative to the conservative Democratic front-runner Bill Clinton?

Brown has certainly tapped into the anger that workers and young people feel towards the corruption, greed and indifference of the Reagan Bush era. His refusal to take donations over $100 and his exhortation to mass meetings to "take back America" from the rich and powerful, appear to make him very different from Clinton. But let's look at Brown's record before he began running for President to see how different he really is.

Brown has made a name for himself in the primaries by attacking large campaign contributions from wealthy investors. Until February 1991, however. Brown was working closely with those same wealthy contributors as chairman of the California Democratic Party. When California voters passed a $1000 limit on campaign contributions in 1988, Brown testified against these limits. In fact, it was Brown's law firm that was hired to argue the case against limits and which defeated them in court. The firm earned $178,000 for its work.

This is nothing new for Jerry Brown. When he was running for re-election in 1978 for a second term as Governor, Brown received campaign contributions from some very large corporations in California: Chevoron, Standard Oil of California, Southern California Edison, the Independent Oil Producers Assn., Great Western Financial Co., Anheuser Busch and Atlantic Richfield. Brown repaid them by supporting business "deregulation", particularly the deregulation of oil and natural gas which sent prices soaring in the late 70s and made the oil companies rich.

Today Brown is trying to present himself as the candidate of "bluecollar" unionized workers who have seen their standard of living seriously decline and their unions broken or weakened over the last decade. In 1978, however, thousands of Californian state employees rallied against Brown's refusal to give them a pay [illegible] Association (CESA) refused to endorse Brown for a second term because of his attacks on the wages and benefits of state workers. In fact,Brown was given a "very poor" rating by CESA for his lack of support for union-related legislation. One union leader called Brown a "demagogue" for his attacks on state workers.

Brown speaks of building an "insurgent peoples' movement" of the poor and disenfranchised, who have suffered from unrelenting budget cuts and increasing "demonization" over the last ten years. Some predict that welfare could become the "Willie Horton" of the Presidential election.

But in 1978, however, Brown bragged of his record as a budget-cutter: "Gov. Reagan, who prides himself as the champion budget-cutter ... his record has been beaten during my four years. I'm proud of that." Among the programs that Brown axed were welfare grants to poor families. One of Brown's appointees to the California Child Health Board wrote: "I can recall when Brown spoke of compassion in government. The grim reality now is that his proposed budget promises to further erode and destroy the human potential of those among us who are the weakest and most vulnerable."

Jerry Brown hopes to take a sizable section of the African-American vote away from Bill Clinton. Brown's attacks on the absence of a civil rights law in Arkansas under Clinton's Governorship and on Clinton's membership of an all-white golf club, is part of this strategy. In 1979, however, Brown came out against court-ordered busing to desegregate public schools in California. "I don't think much of it," Brown said, "I don't think it will work." He also came out for the repeal of a state law that provided funds to help the cost of desegregation, particularly for the Los Angeles school district.

Brown's proposal for a constitutional convention to pass a balanced budget amendment to the constitution (long the dream of the right-wing opponents of progressive politics) was attacked by African-American leaders like Vernon Jordan of the Urban League and civil rights leader Julian Bond. Carl Holman, president of the National Urban Coalition, also attacked Brown's proposal: "...I do not think that a cap on spending is going to do anything other than work out to the disadvantage of poor people, the minorities and the cities," said Holman.

When Clinton's posed for a photograph in front of African-American prisoners in an obvious attempt to exploit the "law and order" issue for racist purposes (as Bush did with Willie Horton in 1988), Brown attacked him for it. Yet when he was governor, Brown played the "law and order" card himself. In 1978, he supported Senate Bill 709 which called for extended mandatory sentences and the spending of $100 million on new prisons. "What we've done is come up with a bill that locks up more people for a longer time for a reasonable cost," said Brown.

One liberal member of the California Supreme Court described Brown's views on criminal justice as "draconian." In 1982 Brown bragged that "The number of people going to prison has gone up 100%, and I'm proud of that." Little wonder that in 1978, racist L.A. police chief Daryl Gates could endorse Brown for re-election.

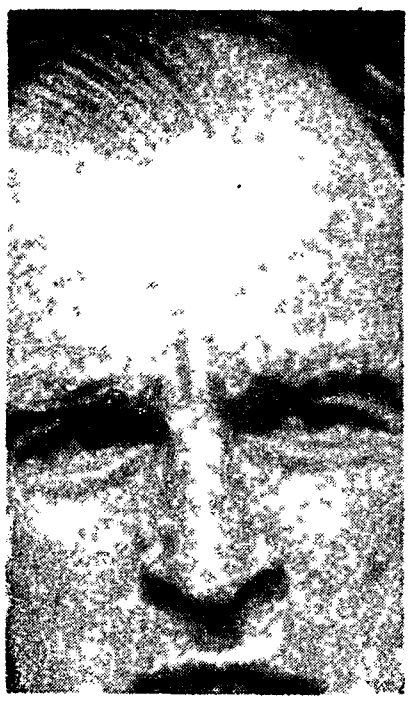
[illegible] tax plan, which he claims will end the loopholes for the rich and provide relief for the poor and working people. In the past Brown has sold tax proposals that he claimed would make the tax system more equitable but turned out to only benefit the wealthy. In 1978 he flip-flopped on his support for Proposition 13. At first he opposed it, then embraced it as if it was his own idea. Proposition 13 was a disaster for working-class and poor people, but gave enormous "relief" to the largest commercial real estate owners in the state.

Brown's flat-tax proposal will do the same thing on a larger scale. Doug Henwood, of *The Left Business Observer,* says: "Brown's 1992 platform is largely intangible. But his reactionary streak is visible in one of his few specific proposals, his horrid tax scheme. Crafted with the aid of Jude Waniski, the engagingly lunatic former *Wall Street Jounal* editorialist who is the father of supply-side economics, Jerry's scheme would abolish all federal teaxes- income, social security. corporate, excise, everything - and replace them a flat 13% tax on gross income and a 13% value-added tax (VAT). (A VAT, to oversimplify somewhat, is a kind of national sales tax.) This combination is about as regressive a tax system as you can devise." Even the *New York Times* was forced to admit that Brown's plan "is slanted toward the wealthy."

Brown says that he has "learned from his mistakes as Governor and chairman of the California Democratic Party," and that he is a different type of candidate now. But this is precisely how Brown has "packaged" himself every time he has run for political office; he always claims to be the "outsider" running against a corrupt system. "Jerry Brown May Have Perfect Pitch in the Music of Anti-Politics, " said the *New York Times* magazine in 1975, just after he was elected to his first term as governor. When Brown was running for re-election in 1978, the Los Angeles Times, in a summary of his first term, described him as the "Master of Symbolism."

Much of the same can be said of Brown's 1992 Presidential campaign—an "anti-establishment" cover for the same old Democratic Party "establishment" policies. Jerry Brown- to quote somebody else- is part of the problem, not part of the solution.

The International Socialist Club *has weekly meetings at UCSD and also organizes weekly lectures and discussions on various issues (see announcements April 22). For more information on the* International Socialist Organization (ISO) *and the* International Socialist Club call: 292-1046.



JERRY BROWN
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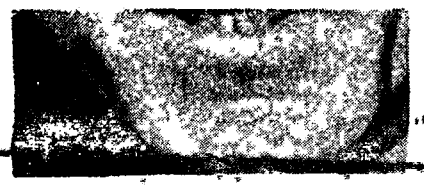
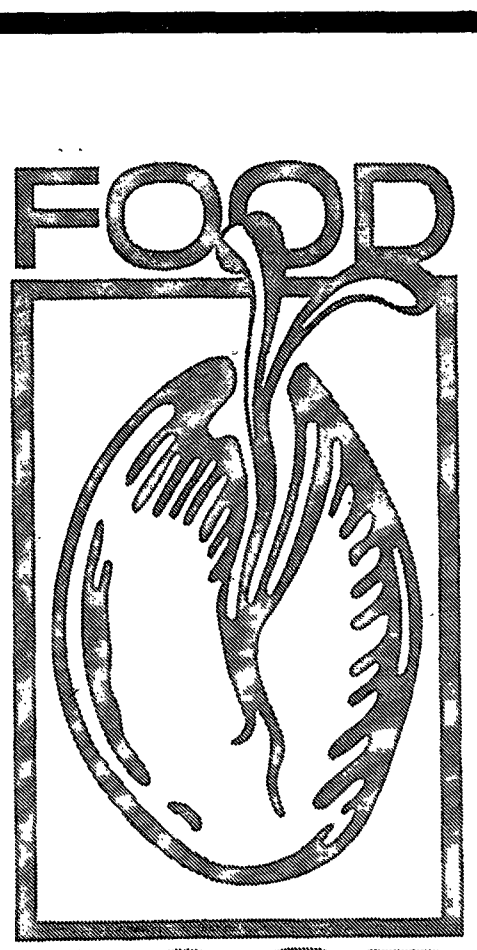
a GRASS-ROOT INSURGENCY

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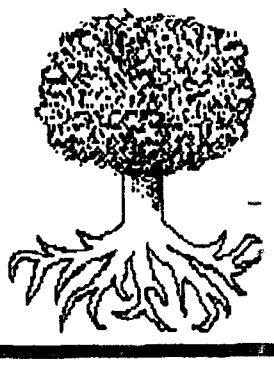

Supremacists meet, but visitors unwanted

y David Bloom
he Press-Enterprise

PHELAN

They didn't want company, not even white guys.

Perhaps 100 sun-baked white supremacists gathered in the High Desert scrublands yesterday about 10 miles northwest of the small San Bernardino County community of Phelan for Aryan Fest 1992.

The fest looked most like a makeshift campground in the middle of nowhere, except for the Nazi, Confederate and other flags flapping in the hot desert breeze.

Music meant to be played loud and fast played quietly on speakers in one corner of the site, by a mobile home where the flags were raised.

Attendees sheltered from the sun in pup tents, under plastic drop cloths and whatever else could be found that cast some shade in the warm sun.

A group of beefy men with close-shorn hair and racist tattoos on their thick arms were drinking beer in one corner. Women and some children could be seen moving around other parts of the site.

The campsite, about half a mile north of Highway 18 near the border with Los Angeles County, was quiet yesterday afternoon. The flags barely could be seen above the man-high scrub brush by sharp-eyed passersby on the highway.

According to deputies of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, the supremacists had caused no problems with the law.

"Not yet, anyway," one deputy said.

But outsiders definitely weren't welcome at the gathering.

A security person in a red T-shirt with "Event Staff" written on the back was stationed at the makeshift entrance.

The security people turned back those who weren't among the converted, including reporters.

The event originally was scheduled for the Salton Sea, according to information by law enforcement people. The site was shifted to the Phelan area late last week and was generally kept secret from the public, said Sgt. Dennis Casey of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The event is supposed to continue today.

200 attend anti-racism protest rally

Half-mile march escorted by police

By Ron Morris
The Press-Enterprise

SAN BERNARDINO

About 200 people, some from as far as San Diego and Los Angeles, turned out yesterday afternoon for an anti-racism rally organized in response to a white supremacist event in the Phelan area.

The 1 p.m. rally was held in front of the Martin Luther King statue in the shadow of San Bernardino City Hall. It was organized by representatives of about 20 groups including the NAACP, the Greens, the Libertarian Party and the Peace and Freedom Party.

Members of the campus Socialist Club at San Diego State University put out a table of socialist literature.

After listening to about 10 speakers, including a Catholic priest, rally participants — some shouting "Stop racism now" — marched about half a mile escorted by police vehicles to Seccombe Lake State Urban Recreation Area where the speeches continued.

Among other things the array of speakers accused government, schools, the criminal justice system, capitalism and other American institutions of harboring or fostering racism.

"Today this country in many subtle ways and different forms is raising the ugly specter of racism and hatred," said the Rev. Patricio Guillen of Libreria del Pueblo, an Hispanic educational and social service organization in San Bernardino.

Alexander Akin, 18, a candidate for the Moreno Valley Unified School District board, said that racial hatred on school campuses is increasing and racism has made its way into school faculties.

The event lent itself to expression on other related issues. One participant carried a sign saying, "No To: Racism, Sexism, Ageism and Homophobia."

David Friedman, a participant from Palm Springs, said he was concerned about Aryan Fest 1992 because, in the past, events of this type touched off attacks against synagogues and other targets of racism.

Carla Conti-Bender / *The Press-Enterprise*

An anti-Aryan fest group gathered at San Bernardino City Hall yesterday, then marched for half a mile.

FREE SPEECH UNDER FIRE!

"No matter how badly demoralized and philosophically disarmed a country might be, it has to reach a certain psychological turning point before it can be pushed from a state of semi-freedom into surrender to full-fledged dictatorship. And this was the main ideological purpose of the student rebellion's leaders, whoever they were: to condition the country to accept force as the means of settling political controversies." --Ayn Rand

Can you judge for yourself? Or do you let others tell you what to think? Do you know how to determine the truth? Do you understand what the right to **FREE SPEECH** means? We do. Why do they come to our lecture with the express intent of preventing our ideas from being heard? Why do they judge us without first listening to our ideas? Why do they rip down our posters? What are they afraid of? WHY ARE THE LEFTISTS TRYING TO STOP US? You had better find out, before they try to stop you, too.

"There is no justification, in a civilized society, for the kind of mass civil disobedience that involves the violation of the rights of others--regardless of whether the demonstrators' goal is good or evil. The end does not justify the means. No one's rights can be secured by the violation of the rights of others. Mass disobedience is an assault on the concept of rights: it is a mob's defiance of legality as such.

"The forcible occupation of another man's property or the obstruction of a public thoroughfare is so blatant a violation of rights that an attempt to justify it becomes an abrogation of morality. An individual has no right to do a "sit-in" in the home or office of a person he disagrees with--and he does not acquire such a right by joining a gang. Rights are not a matter of numbers--and there can be no such thing, in law or in morality, as actions forbidden to an individual, but permitted to a mob.

"The only power of a mob, as against an individual, is greater muscular strength--i.e., plain, brute physical force. The attempt to solve social problems by means of physical force is what a civilized society is established to prevent. The advocates of mass civil disobedience admit that their purpose is intimidation. A society that tolerates intimidation as a means of settling disputes--the physical intimidation of some men or groups by others--loses its moral right to exist as a social system, and its collapse does not take long to follow.

"There can be no such thing as the right to an unrestricted freedom of speech (or of action) on someone else's property. The fact that the university...is owned by the state, merely complicates the issue, but does not alter it. The owners of a state university are the voters and taxpayers of that state. The university administration, appointed (directly or indirectly) by an elected official, is, theorectically, the agent of the owners--and has to act as such, so long as state universities exist."
--Ayn Rand

If you want intellectual armor, read Ayn Rand.
If you want to judge for yourself, call 755-4407 and we'll send you a copy of Dr. Reisman's lecture, "Education and the Racist Road to Barbarism."

OBJECTIVISM: THE PHILOSOPHY OF

AYN RAND

Metaphysics:	REALITY	Ethics:	RATIONAL SELF-INTEREST
Epistemology:	REASON	Politics:	CAPITALISM

THE OBJECTIVISM STUDY GROUP AT UCSD

FIGHT RACISM! DEFEND MULTICULTURALISM!

Two weeks ago, the Rodney King verdicts made clear that US society is racist to the core. People of color are assumed guilty until proven innocent, while white cops can do whatever they like in the name of "law and order."

Tonight, the academic racists have decided to add insult to injury. They attack ethnic diversity at the university in the name of "Western civilization." They say that "we live in a civilized society", and that defenders of multiculturalism want us "to identify with our savage ancestors" (quotations from publicity material for tonight's meeting). This kind of open racism—the intellectual equivalent of the Rodney King beating—should not go unchallenged!

WHY WE SUPPORT MULTICULTURALISM

"[T]he basis of multiculturalism ... is the recognition that the totality of US society is not expressed within one and only one cultural group—Western Europeans, only one religion—Christianity, or only one language—English.... Multiculturalism also presumes a theory of democracy within education. Traditional universities are 'closed institutions': rigid, alienating, hierarchical and disconnected from minority and poor communities. Our challenge is to make education 'open': flexible, accessible to working-class and poor people, possessing a deep commitment to equality and social responsibility. The achievement of 'multiculturalism' in colleges benefits everyone."—Political scientist Manning Marable.

WHO ARE THE REAL SAVAGES?

Greek slavery, the extermination of the indigenous populations of the Americas, the African slave trade, the Nazi holocaust.... The "highest form of civilization thus far achieved" seems to have been responsible for the greatest acts of barbarism in world history!

Reporter: *"Mr. Gandhi, what do you think of Western civilization?"*
Gandhi: *"I think it would be a good idea!"*

TOO MUCH DIVERSITY?

For all the talk about multiculturalism undermining "Western civilization", the fact is that the bulk of courses at universities hardly challenge the *status quo*. Most economics courses teach that the capitalist market economy is the best system. Most social science courses teach that class is an outmoded concept for understanding American society.

- Only 11% of respondents to a 1991 Higher Education Research Institute survey said that they assigned readings dealing with issues of race and gender in their classes.

- A Modern Languages Association survey of English departments found that since 1980 only four have dropped a class in Shakespeare, while *fifteen* have eliminated all courses dealing with ethnic or Black literature. The majority of campuses do not have a single course in African-American studies!

We need more multiculturalism and diversity on campus, not less!

★ International Socialist Club (292-1046) ★

Stop racist police violence!

• The Rodney King beating was no "aberration". According to the Police Misconduct Lawyers Referral Service, beatings are a regular occurrence in the LA area. The organization's executive director says *"It's horrible, but I must tell you that we receive complaints in this office of that kind of conduct on a weekly basis, if not a daily basis. The difference this time is that there was somebody there to videotape it. That's the only difference."*

• In a poll taken last year, nearly half of LA residents, who are mostly Black or Latino, said they fear for their safety when stopped by an LA cop. A quarter said they have personally seen or been involved in an incident in which excessive force has been used.

• Racism in the police force goes right to the top. When the LAPD was under scrutiny for the large number of choke-hold deaths of Black suspects, LA police chief Daryl Gates blamed the victims for not having veins in their necks *"like normal people."* In 1987, Gates said that the reason that Latinos in the LAPD are not promoted faster is that they are "lazy". The following year, George Bush lauded Gates as a model police administrator and an *"All-American hero."*

• Police brutality and racism is a fact of everyday life in every US city. In 1987, 3 Manhattan cops were videotaped brutally beating Alberto Flores. Despite the tape and several witnesses, the officers were not indicted. Instead, Flores was charged with assaulting an officer.

• In New York City there were 41 deaths in police custody in 1990 alone, but only 2 indictments. In the city's entire history, only 2 cops have been convicted of wrongfully killing civilians.

• Only 2% of all police brutality cases referred to the Justice Department are prosecuted. And many cases of police brutality never reach the federal level. According to an ACLU spokesperson, the ACLU *"has not on a routine basis referred police brutality cases to the Department of Justice because we are not aware of them doing anything."*

• The US imprisons Black men at 4 times the rate in South Africa. Black men make up 40% of the prison population but only 3.5% of college students. Nearly 25% of Black men are either in prison, on parole or on probation.

• George Bush, Bill Clinton and other mainstream politicians say it is necessary to "get tough on crime". Yet according to Justice Department figures, the crime rate in 1991 was lower than it had been for 16 years. Bush and Clinton's "law and order" rhetoric is nothing more than a coded attack on racial minorities, designed to blame them for the social and economic crisis that is really the result of year's of pro-business policies.

The right to rebellion

During the next few weeks, politicians—Black and white—are going to be viciously attacking the Great Rebellion in Los Angeles. "Criminals," "opportunists" and "extremists" will be blamed for the events, not the racist justice system that freed the cops who beat Rodney King. We must say that people have the right to rebel against the oppressive and violent conditions that America's rulers have forced them to live in. As Malcolm X said: "If *we react to white racism with a violent reaction, to me that's not Black racism. If you come to put a rope around my neck and I hang you for it, to me that's not racism. Yours is racism, but my reaction has nothing to do with racism."*

George Bush's attacks on the "violence" in Los Angeles in wake of the US-sponsored slaughter of 200,000 people in the Gulf war is sheer hypocrisy. In the 1960s, Martin Luther King Jr. rejected similar condemnations of the ghetto poor for their "resort to violence": *"As I have walked among the desperate, rejected, and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems.... But they asked—and rightly so—what about Vietnam? ... Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today—my own government."*

The Great Rebellion in Los Angeles, however, cannot be seen as an end in itself. The riots of today, like those of the mid-1960s, represent explosions of anger and frustration. If people sometimes choose the wrong targets for their anger (white workers or Asian shopkeepers), that is the responsibility of our rulers who have played one racial group off against another to increase their own wealth and power. We need to build an ongoing movement to fight for the fundamental restructuring of American society to rid it of all racism and class oppression.

★ International Socialist Organization ★

Next meeting: "Racism, Rebellion & Revolution", Wed. 6 May, 4:00pm, Price Ctr., UCSD. Call 292-1046 for further details.

UCSD Socialist Club Cleared

HEARINGS: Judicial board finds club did not plan disruption of lecture last May

By Eric Schmidt and Ben Boychuk
Senior Staff Writers

A Campus-Wide Judicial Board recently found the International Socialist Club (ISC) not guilty of charges that it planned a disruption of an on-campus lecture titled "Education and the Racist Road to Barbarism."

The Objectivism Study Group (OSG) at UCSD raised the charges after Pepperdine University Economics Professor George Reisman was repeatedly shouted down during a lecture sponsored by the OSG on May 13.

An estimated one-third to one-half of the 200-member audience disrupted the lecture by shouting comments at Reisman while he was speaking.

Comments included "Motherfucker, you can't get away with that," "You'll never get out of here" and "Nazi motherfucker," according to police in attendance at the event. Reisman was escorted off campus under police protection following his talk.

Crowds at the event did not disperse for approximately one hour after Reisman's departure, since students for and against Reisman argued heatedly following the lecture.

OSG President Darlene Price said Reisman's lecture lost all value because of the disruptions. "Everything we put into that event was destroyed. We received nothing," Price said.

The OSG had asked the university to force the ISC to issue a formal apology and to pay the expenses of the lecture, which totaled $1,580.

In addition to charges against the ISC, college-level disciplinary procedures against individuals allegedly involved in the disruptions have been dismissed.

According to Assistant Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Affairs Tom Tucker, all grievances filed against student organizations are sent to his office, where he must decide if a particular case merits attention or not.

In this case, Tucker said he believed there was enough evidence to justify taking action. In an informal hearing, Tucker offered ISC members a choice of going before the campus-wide judicial board or accepting what he characterized as "severe sanctions."

According to Tucker, the range of sanctions available to him include imposing fines, community service hours, probation, temporary suspension or complete disbandment of the organization.

The ISC turned down Tucker's proposed sanctions in favor of a formal hearing.

"The university followed due process to the letter," Tucker said.

ISC advisor and Philosophy Professor Phil Gasper said the complaint was found invalid because the OSG could not prove socialist club group planned the disruptions. Reaction to the lecture was spontaneous among many members of the crowd, he said.

Gasper had been implicated in leading the disruptions with several other ISC members, including Principal Member Siamak Malek.

"The complaint was that the International Socialist Club somehow engineered a disruption of the meeting. We were certainly not involved with what happened," Gasper said.

Several ISC members were involved with a picket before the event and with the distribution of fliers "to promote multiculturalism."

Gasper said the speaker was racist and was intentionally prodding the audience. "When he mentioned savages, he was mo-

See **OSG**, Page 9

OSG: Socialist club found not-guilty in lecture disruption

Continued from page 3

tioning toward the black and Latino areas of the audience," he said.

In her written complaint to the university concerning the disruptions, Price disputed the claim that Reisman's lecture was racist.

"I heard repeatedly the comment that [the disrupters] had validated the theme of Dr. Reisman's lecture, that the abandonment of education centered on teaching of Western Civilization leads to barbarism. I certainly have to agree," Price wrote, adding, "It was an ugly display."

"People have wanted to marginalize [objectivism] all along. We've been called racists, libertarians, immoral... nothing has been learned," Price said.

Malek said he feels the attitude expressed by the speaker was an attack on non-Western culture. "Any time you call somebody's culture better or their ethnic background savage, usually they respond," he said.

"When you call my ancestors spear-chucking savages, naturally I'm going to say, 'fuck you,'" Malek added.

Malek said there was no ISC attempt to silence objectivism. "I don't think there's a conspiracy on campus to eliminate socialist thought, and I don't think there's a conspiracy to silence objectivists," he said.

Price said, though, that shouting down Reisman had the effect of silencing objectivism. "It was their intention to prevent a set of ideas from being heard. That's what happened," she said.

According to Price, the OSG is planning another event for February. John Ridpath of York University, Toronto, has agreed to lecture on free speech and individual rights only if he receives an unambiguous statement from the university assuring him that no disruptions will be tolerated.

"The university believes that free expression in the context of scholarship is a fundamental right," Tucker said. "We will take a strong interest in subsequent meetings."

December 3, 1992 Guardian UCSD

Clash over speech five months ago still reverberating on UCSD campus

By STEVE SCHMIDT

It is May 13 and anger builds as economics professor George Reisman delivers a speech at UCSD.

"Lies, lies, lies," yells one protester in the audience. "Lies, lies, lies."

"Who the hell are you?" Reisman snaps at one point. "Shut up!"

It was not one of the university's finer moments. Last May, a campus organization called the Objectivism Study Group presented an evening lecture by Reisman, a professor at Pepperdine University. The title of his talk: "Education and the Racist Road to Barbarism."

What followed was a verbal tussle between professor and protesters that struck at the heart of the debate over political correctness on college campuses.

Battles are flaring throughout the nation over what professors can and cannot teach, over what values they pass on to the next generation of students.

Faculty members are under pressure to dump their heavy reliance on Western thought and culture. Teach more than the writings of Plato and Shakespeare and other dead white guys, critics say. Include the works of a South American peasant or the descendant of an African slave or other non-Europeans.

Many campuses have embraced multicultural curriculums. The notion of teaching a rainbow of cultures in the classroom is overdue, many believe.

But the intellectual old guard complains that the soldiers of political correctness have created an atmosphere of intolerance in their zeal for racial and sexual parity.

These were the battle lines on May 13 when Reisman appeared before a crowd of more than 200 people.

Many were with the Objectivism Study Group, which studies the works of novelist-philosopher Ayn Rand. In the 1940s and 50s, Rand championed American capitalism and individual rights.

But protesters who crashed the event didn't like what they heard as Reisman talked up what he considers the value of Western civilization.

American intellectual thought is on the road to barbarism because of the push to introduce other, less superior cultural values into the classroom, Reisman argued.

"Western civilization is in decline by virtue of such things as multiculturalism taking over the college campuses," he told the crowd.

Reisman later said he was trying to present a logical, detailed argument why Western thought should be revered, not reviled.

The words did not go down easy for some. He was yelled at. Some labeled him racist. Others laughed between insults.

Reisman didn't hesitate to yell back.

"Now if we were respecting freedom of speech here tonight in full, these disruptions would stop, but unfortunately we have storm troopers in our midst who do not want me to speak," he said.

One protester said she was tired of being "oppressed by (President) Bush" and white-dominated society.

At one point, Reisman argued that America's social ills are not rooted in racism but a decline in intellectualism.

"You have no right to speak here!" a protester yelled back. "Get off the campus as soon as you can."

"You just heard it from a fascist thug," Reisman told the audience. "He wants me to leave the campus because he doesn't like my ideas. He wants a monopoly for his nonsense."

More than five months later, the event haunts those involved.

Reisman recently scrapped plans to bring a lecture series to campus next year, arguing that the protesters violated his freedom of speech.

"The advocates of political correctness ... are taking over the campuses and they're not being opposed," he said.

UCSD student Siamak Malek said he considered the speech deliberately offensive and left the event early because he considered it a "waste of time."

The Objectivism Study Group wants UCSD to take disciplinary action against the campus International Socialist Club, which organized a picket prior to the speech. Malek, a leader of the socialist group, said they were not involved in the taunting.

A hearing is set for later this month.

"It's unacceptable that anybody be stifled from expressing their views, no matter how repulsive," said one campus administrator. "That goes to the heart of what the university is all about."

Staff Writer Steve Schmidt covers higher education for the Union-Tribune.

Strike of mostly Mexican drywallers in California enters fourth month

Victory for drywallers could help turn around last decade's defeats

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Several thousand mostly Mexican drywall workers organized demonstrations and pickets to stop scabs as their strike against the southern California's drywall industry entered its fourth month.

by JOE ALLEN

The strike is an important fight for union rights and against poor wages and working conditions.

Justice for Drywallers, the name the strikers adopted at the beginning of the strike, is demanding union recognition and better wages, working conditions and health benefits.

The strike remains strong, but the strikers will have to completely stop scabbing at the construction sites and continue to win active support from the union movement—particularly from the carpenters union.

The possibility of winning more support from the labor movement is good.

On August 8, over 500 members and supporters of Justice for Drywallers held a solidarity rally and march in San Diego.

Supporters from the carpenters union, the Service Employees International Union, the San Diego Labor Council, the California Immigrant Workers Association, the painters union, the ironworkers union, and the Justice for Drywallers Support Committee gave greetings.

At its August meeting following the rally, the San Diego Labor Council voted to donate money to the strike.

STOPPING THE SCABS

The prospects for stopping the scabs is also very good.

In mid-August, after several days of picketing and discussions, workers recruited to scab at a Champion drywall site in Anaheim, Calif. were convinced by strikers to down tools.

Some of these workers have joined the Justice for Drywallers movement, and the bus used to transport scabs to the work site has not returned.

However, a small but important amount of work is still getting done.

In San Diego county, the employers have rented trucks and motor homes to transport scabs to work sites protected by police escorts.

But San Diego drywallers are not letting this prevent them from trying to talk to workers who are crossing the picket lines.

On August 14, strikers followed a truck load of scabs back to the Great Western Drywall office after work.

Workers recruited to scab at a Champion work site in Anaheim were convinced by strikers to down tools. Some of these workers have joined Justice for Drywallers—and the bus used to transport scabs to the work site has not returned.

Justice for Drywallers support rally

Great Western managers locked the scabs and themselves in their office for several hours to prevent strikers from talking to the scabs.

Last month, over 100 strikers and supporters twice picketed the San Diego Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) office, which is used as a hiring hall for scabs.

The ABC office was shut down for several hours on both occasions.

These are important steps toward winning the strike.

A further significant step would be convincing the carpenters union to actively support the strike.

While the union has provided the use of their facilities for organizing and helped with fundraising, it has also maintained a hands-off approach to organizing on the ground.

"We have to keep our distance" is the typical response from union officials—even though the strikers are demanding to be recognized as members of the carpenters union!

This is a serious weakness in the strike. It is an open secret that some of the people working on the struck residential construction sites are laid-off union members.

These workers must be won back to the union.

The regional drywallers strike should be taken up by the carpenters union as an opportunity to re-unionize a whole section of the construction industry that was lost during the union-busting era of the 1980s.

PICKET EVERY DAY

Despite the best efforts of the companies to stop them, hundreds of drywallers every day picket residential construction sites all over southern California.

However, employer violence and police harassment continues.

On August 11, at a work site in San Diego, a supervisor for J&S Builders, one of the struck drywall companies, drew a gun and fired into the ground near a picket line.

The San Diego police arrested the supervisor—but also arrested four drywallers on trumped-up charges of vandalism and assault.

Hundreds of people converged on the local police station to protest the arrest of the strikers.

The charges against the strikers were dropped later. But police also dropped charges against the J&S supervisor, even though dozens of witnesses saw him draw his weapon and fire.

Despite company violence and police harassment, the strikers continue to win support.

Strike supporters in Los Angeles and San Francisco are forming solidarity committees; a statewide tour of strikers is being discussed.

Much more has to be done. The Justice for Drywallers strike, if victorious, could be a small but key step in turning around a decade of defeats for the labor movement.

A victory for the drywallers will be a victory for us all! □

Send donations and messages of support to: Drywallers Fund, P.O. Box 232713, Encinitas, CA 92023. Make checks payable to: Antonio Hernandez (memo: Drywallers Fund).

"If we can win, it will be everyone's victory"

THE STRIKE of drywallers in southern California remains solid after four months. *BILL ROBERTS* spoke with *TONY HERNANDEZ*, an organizer for Justice for Drywallers, about the issues involved.

WHAT IS your position in Justice for Drywallers and what role did you play in forming the organization?

MY MAIN role is as a spokesperson and organizer.

We are trying to get a union contract. We started the strike on June 1, but we've been meeting and planning since November of last year. This had been cooking for eight or nine months already.

The Janitors for Justice [who conducted a successful strike in Los Angeles in 1990] helped by letting us use the movies of their strike.

This gave us some ideas for how to get started.

The key issue was the lack of health care benefits. Also, [we had] no security or safety on the job. And also low wages.

These were the main reasons we went on strike. We are making less money today than we were making back in 1979.

We want union recognition. We want health benefits and a pension plan. More than anything else we want to be represented.

The companies have been ripping us off for the past 15 years.

WHAT HAS been the reaction of the construction companies?

THEY'VE HAD different reactions. We're organized all the way from Ventura County—which is about 400 miles from here [San Diego] to the border with Mexico.

San Diego is anti-union. Because of the border they import labor from Mexico. They also get people from other states.

The main issue is the labor brokers. They work together with the companies.

These labor brokers they hire their own people and they pay them whatever they want and they pocket the rest as profit.

So even if the contractor says he is paying fair wages—and some probably are—we never see those fair wages come into our pockets. The brokers get in between.

They couldn't believe it when we put up pickets. Because we are mostly Hispanic, they couldn't believe the cheap laborers were standing up for their rights. The same thing happened for the Justice for Janitors.

WHAT ABOUT the reaction of the police to your strike?

THE POLICE is the biggest issue right now.

If it wasn't for the police we could be 90 percent successful—with a contract in our pockets.

But now the police are helping the scabs get into the job sites. Our people are arrested for no reason at all.

They manipulate the system. They make sure the rich people keep making the money and the poor people stay poor.

The mayor of San Diego is one of the richest women in the country so her side is well represented by the police.

WHAT KIND of support are the drywallers getting from the Carpenters' Union?

THEY GIVE us moral support and they let us use their facilities. Besides that they are donating money through the AFL-CIO strike fund.

How much are they donating? I don't know. I have no idea about that.

All I know is that we needed a place to gather and they let us borrow their place here and throughout southern California.

Without these halls, things would have disintegrated.

ARE YOU getting any help from other construction unions?

I BELIEVE others are donating through the AFL-CIO fund.

Because of law suits pending against us, none of the unions want to claim 100 percent support because they might be responsible for any losses.

There is also a lot of racism involved at the work sites. We're Latinos and some of the Anglos—not all—are trying to create a situation and make it worse by using racism.

WHAT ABOUT other support for the strike?

HERE WE have the Drywaller Support Committee.

We have CIWA (California Immigrant Workers Association), the Mexican National Brotherhood, and an institution of lawyers which help us with discrimination and immigration problems.

We have support from both the universities here in San Diego. Churches and other organizations—too many to remember them all—are helping.

Support is getting bigger every day.

HOW IS morale holding up and how are the families coping with the sacrifices of the strike?

WELL, WE have our ups and downs. We are supported through the strike funds collected for us, and when we can pay people, the morale goes high for a couple of weeks.

Then through the middle of the month when situations get so desperate and no money or food is coming in, our spirits go down.

But we have more good days than bad days.

Every morning we meet with strikers and organize to go to a job site.

We also have meetings every Friday and Saturday with the rest of the groups from Los Angeles, Orange County, San Bernadino, Riverside, Ventura, and so forth.

At least once a week we are meeting with the rest of the movement.

If anyone wants to help they should give us a call and if other drywallers need help we will send some people over.

AT THIS stage of the strike what do you think is the key to winning?

THE KEY is sticking together.

If we can stay together for another month, I don't think the companies are going to be able to keep up their financing.

They are losing a lot of money.

They are paying for a lot of security guards, for a lot of scabs from out of the state, and we are stopping them anytime we have a chance.

I would say construction is about 40 percent from the pace they are supposed to be doing it.

The general contractors and developers are putting pressure on the drywall companies to get the jobs done.

Also, I understand some of them are getting sued because they haven't complied with their contracts.

Put one and one together and I don't think they have that kind of money to keep us away from the job.

I'll tell you something, there is a lot of work here. In San Diego there are about 35 job sites now—big ones.

HOW CAN people help the strike who are not directly involved?

ANY KIND of donations are helpful—food, diapers, money, anything.

We just want the American people to realize if we win it's not just the Latinos' victory but everyone's victory.

Our victory will show up in everybody else's work. Everybody will have the right to fight for a union contract, for benefits, for a pension plan, for everything. □

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